Pending Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (original)   A method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device, the method comprising the steps of:

   querying a device for job information;

   determining a state of job progress from the job information;

   setting a delay time depending upon the state of job progress; and

   querying the device for job information after the delay time has passed.

2.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein an application-layer protocol is employed to poll the device.

3.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein a network management protocol request is employed to poll the device.

4.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)-enabled application is employed to poll the device.

5.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein the device is a network-connected device.

6.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein the device is a printer.

7.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein the job information comprises print job information.

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8.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein the delay time is set to be no less than an acceptable delay time.

9.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 1, wherein the step of setting a delay time includes the steps of: adjusting an expected job completion time depending upon the state of job progress; and determining the delay time from the expected job completion time.

10.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 9, wherein the delay time is set to be less than the expected job completion time.

11.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 9, wherein the delay time is set to be approximately one half of the expected job completion time.

12.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 9, wherein the delay time is set to be within a range of values bounded by a minimum delay time and a maximum delay time.

13.   (original)   A method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device, the method comprising the steps of:

querying a device for information;

determining an expected job completion time from the information;

setting a delay time depending upon the expected job completion time; and

querying the device for job information after the delay time has passed.

14.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 13, wherein the information comprises a rated speed of the device.

15.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 14, wherein the rated speed is a rated engine speed.

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16.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 14, wherein the rated speed is a rated print speed.

17.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 13, wherein the expected job completion time is a best case job completion time.

18.   (previously presented)   A method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device, the method comprising the steps of:
    (a) querying a device for job progress information according to a polling rate;
    (b) adjusting the polling rate depending upon the job progress information; and
    (c) repeating steps (a) and (b) until a job associated with the job progress information is completed.

19.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 18, wherein the polling rate is adjusted such that a delay time until a next query to the device is no less than an acceptable delay time.

20.   (original)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 18, wherein the polling rate is adjusted such that a delay time until a next query to the device is set to be within a range of values bounded by a minimum delay time and a maximum delay time.

21-23.   (canceled)

24.   (previously presented)   The method for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device of claim 18, wherein the job progress information comprises print job progress information.

25.   (canceled)

26.   (original)   A computer program for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device comprising:

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a computer usable medium having computer-readable instructions thereon for causing a computer to query a device for job information, determine a state of job progress from the job information, set a delay time depending upon the state of job progress, and query the device for job information after the delay time has passed.

27.   (original) A processing system for adapting the polling rate for collecting job information from a device comprising:

a monitoring agent configured to query a device for job information, determine a state of job progress from the job information, set a delay time depending upon the state of job progress, and query the device for job information after the delay time has passed.

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